United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400 (NA-08-09)
Date: September 9, 2008

Subject: 2008 Emerald Ash Borer Survey

To: John Howard, Superintendent
Antietam National Battlefield
P.O. Box 158
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Starting in May 2008, personnel from this office began surveying for the emerald ash borer on the Antietam National Battlefield (ANB). This year's survey included the use of purple panel traps, and visual surveys. No signs of emerald ash borer were detected. However, the presence of emerald ash borer, especially in its early state of infestation is extremely difficult to detect.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has been found in several States, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland and West Virginia. Since its accidental introduction sometime in the late 1990s, this beetle has caused millions of dollars in damage to ash trees across the Midwest, and has produced wide-ranging quarantines and regulations on movement of ash trees and firewood in the hopes of preventing further spread. The Emerald ash borer impacts all North American species of ash trees, and may be spread over long distances through the transport of trees and wood products, such as nursery stock and firewood.

The Emerald ash borer has become a major forest pest of ash in the Eastern United States. It cannot be stressed enough that this insect is coming, and decisions need to be made now to educate your staff and visitors about this insect. Educational information about this borer is available on the World Wide Web (http://www.emeraldashborer.info/) through this office along with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. We hope that this information will be used throughout the ANB. We would also request that your personnel work with this office to identify and survey ash resources located throughout the ANB.

Please remind National Park personnel that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity and tree defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Chelsea Gibson at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Bob Lueckel

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: Jil Swearingen, CUE
Dick Bean, MDA
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